

# THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society    Berkeley, California    Volume 72    Number 9    October 1990



## IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST— WILL THE SPOTTED OWL BE THERE TO HEAR IT?

Join naturalist Bob Stewart at our Oct. 11th meeting in San Francisco for an anecdotal and personal view of the biology and politics of the Spotted Owl. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Josephine Randall Museum located at 199 Museum Way.

Bob Stewart, who is naturalist for the Marin County Open Space District, has led 75 walks to see Spotted Owls in Marin County. He considers the behavior of Spotted Owls around humans to be truly unique in North America. Between June and November the young are curious about everything that happens in their territory including 40 or more gawking people. The adults will feed, copulate and hoot with no apparent concern about observers. That this laid-back very approachable owl's habitat is being decimated on remaining privately held forest in California and on government land all over the northwest is truly a tragedy.

Even though the Spotted Owl was a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act as early as 1973, it was only listed as Threatened under this Act in June 1990. The Interagency Scientific Committee, comprised of scientists from many government agencies, presented their management plan to save the owl from extinction in May 1990. President Bush's committee of economists will have presented their view by Sept. 1. There will be several initiatives to vote on in November that would enable us to purchase old growth forest in California.

Mr. Stewart's talk will be a good opportunity to become more informed on these issues, and also learn more about the natural history of this symbol of the old growth forests. Join us on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 for this second program in our series on Ancient Forest Issues and Wildlife.

—JOELLE BUFFA  
Program Chairman

## SAN FRANCISCO MUDFLAT CLEANUP

On Sunday, August 13, a ceremony was held at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area to dedicate a portion of the Bay Trail, a proposed 400 mile hiking and biking trail around the shores of San Francisco and  
*(continued on page 138)*

## MUDFLAT CLEANUP

*(continued from page 137)*

San Pablo bays. The Bay Trail Mixer, as it was called, was sponsored by Moosehead Canadian Lager and radio station KOME-FM in San Jose and supported by the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Planning Coalition. It featured a mudflat cleanup, African-American food, live music, information tables staffed by various environmental groups (including GGAS), and audio-visual presentations on bay environmental issues. At least one group of cyclists biked over from the East Bay for the dedication, crossing on BART and biking on the Bay Trail from the Embarcadero Station to Candlestick Point SRA.

The park, which was the first urban state park established in California, is located in San Francisco across the Hunters Point Expressway from the Candlestick Stadium, and has been in existence for ten years. Many local birders first "discovered" this unique open space on one of Dan Murphy's and Alan Hopkins' San Francisco spring bird blitzes. Just a few years ago one could be fairly assured of a city Horned Lark there, with a possible Burrowing Owl or Rock Wren. In the past year I have enjoyed seeing Merlin, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbirds and many winter ducks and cormorants that hang out there, including a Harlequin Duck last winter.

For me, the highlight of the Bay Trail Mixer was the mudflat cleanup. Candlestick Point has historically been a dumping site, both legally and illegally.

The park's master plan includes a multi-cultural center for the community and a restored wetland at Yosemite Creek, so extensive cleanup has been needed to remove tons of rebar and other debris from the area. Some more or less inaccessible areas were still covered with piles of rotting tires, wood, rusting metal, cans and assorted trash. On this day about 200 people of all ages and capabilities turned out to clean up this tidal mudflat, pulling tire after tire and stacks of lumber out of the pickleweed and mud and hauling them up a steep bank to deposit in the proper bin for recycling. Moosehead Beer provided numerous incentives: all those registered for the cleanup were handed clean work gloves (to be returned), and everyone was eligible for various prizes, including cruises to Canada, and bicycles for those under sixteen. Kelly Runyon of Sanitary Fill Co. provided and hauled away six debris boxes (including two of 40-yrd. capacity) and a garbage truck and was on hand to oversee the masses of moving people and equipment. Volunteers included a group from the *USS Vinson* (who hauled heavy logs and dug into the mud for half-submerged tires and debris), the San Francisco Conservation Corps (courtesy of the Coastal Conservancy) and many dedicated and hardworking individuals. In all, 20 tons of trash was hauled out of the mudflat, 15 tons of that being tires and scrap metal.

It was heartening to see a mudflat transformed in front of our eyes from a pile of unsightly debris to its almost pristine natural state. I'm sure the shorebirds when they return on migration will appreciate it also because there



is now at least double the area to feed off. Those who participated in the cleanup seemed to enjoy it at least as much as the other planned festivities. In these times when all we hear is how our species is destroying the planet and all other species, it was wonderful to be able to do something tangible and hands-on that was clearly making a difference!

—JAN ANDERSON

West Bay Conservation Committee

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, October 6**—Coyote Hills Regional Park. (*Note corrected day.*)

**Wednesday, October 10**—Mini-trip to East Bay Shoreline.

For details on the above see *The GULL* for September.

**Saturday, October 20**—Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Drive. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Sanctuary. Shorebirds should be present in numbers, so bring a spotting scope if you have one. Bring lunch and liquids. The afternoon will be spent visiting interesting and less frequented shorebird hot spots. Leader: Leora Feeney (522-8525). (✓)

**Saturday, October 20**—Third Annual Point Reyes National Seashore All-day Fall Birding Blitz. (Non-competitive joint activity: GGAS and National Park Service.) Meet at 8 a.m. at Five Brooks Trail-head parking lot (approximately five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We will bird Five Brooks Pond area, Liman-tour Spit, Drake's Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip.

Bring food, water, and layer clothes for variable weather. Leader: Leon Abrams 459-6366 (work), 843-4107 (home). (✓)

**Sunday, October 28**—Tennessee Valley. Meet at 9 a.m. and bring lunch. Take Hwy 101 north across the Golden Gate Bridge and take the Mill Valley

exit under the Richardson Bay Bridge. In one-half mile turn left at the Tennessee Valley sign and drive to the end of the road. We will walk on a level trail looking for land and sea birds. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 during working hours). (✓)

**Sunday, November 4**—Beginners' Trip to Rodeo Lagoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Marin Headlands Ranger Station. Take Hwy. 101 north across the Golden Gate Bridge, then immediate exit on Alexander Ave. and turn left through the tunnel to Marin Headlands. Follow the road to the ranger station at the old military chapel on hill on left. We will walk about one mile on level ground around the lagoon looking for gulls, egrets, bitterns and night herons. Bring liquids. The trip will end around noon. Leader: Jerry Scott (752-5835). (✓)

**Saturday, November 10**—Birds of Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate near Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will look for birds in the various habitats of the Arboretum, including Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and White-throated Sparrows. Beginners, and all others, welcome. Leader: Alan Ridley (566-3241).

**Wednesday, November 14**—Mini-trip to Aquatic Park, Berkeley, and other nearby areas. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the northwest corner of Spenger's parking lot to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Carpooling** arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

**Problems:** If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## OBSERVATIONS

### Thru August 30

Late summer is when the shorebirds return—adults first, bearing the remnants of their bright breeding plumage; and then the young looking spiffy fresh and immaculately turned out in their brand new feathers. It's a marvelous time for anyone interested in looking at birds. Stilts and Avocets, Godwits and Willets, Plovers and peeps abound for the new starters and the sometimes-on-Sunday watchers. Western or Semipalmated; Marbled or Hudsonian; Pectoral or Sharp-tailed—questions and possibilities alike arise to hold the interest of those who've discovered how to differentiate between Least and Western Sandpipers. And should the "old" and the "wise" find themselves sliding toward jaded, there are always the stints, close relatives to Least and Western Sandpipers and likely to cause quandary and controversy when sighted here this time of year since even good looks do not guarantee agreement on the identity of the bird. A reported Rufous-necked Stint at the Moonglow Dairy on 9/1 and 2 had well-qualified observers about evenly divided—half thought it was the Stint; the other half were convinced it was a Western Sandpiper, with discussion ranging from the extent of the chevrons on the sides of the breast to the amount of webbing between the toes. There's a lot about shorebirds to hold people's interest.

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Interest in seabirds also heightens this time of year—migratory patterns bring good numbers and variety of species which along with calmer seas mean more pelagic trips, more watchers and more sightings. A report from the Farallons mentions that a combination of warm sea-surface temperatures and a lack of ocean productivity (food) in

the eastern Pacific seem to have brought about an unprecedentedly early influx of warm-water seabirds: Northern Fulmars—sixteen from 8/6 to 8/27; Buller's Shearwaters—first arrival on 8/3; two Short-tailed Shearwaters on 8/23; over fifty Black-vented Shearwaters between 8/7 and 8/28; and three Black Storm-Petrels 8/26–28 (PRBO). Sea watches from the San Mateo coast produced Northern Fulmars on 7/15 (RSTh) and 8/18–19 (MRe, RSTh); Pink-footed Shearwaters on 7/15 (RSTh) and 7/28 (PJM, MPe); and Pomarine Jaegers on 7/15 (RSTh) and 7/28 (PJM). Monterey Bay pelagic trips on 8/25 and 26 had up to eight Black-vented Shearwaters; a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, twelve Long-tailed Jaegers, two South Polar Skuas, seventy-five Sabine's Gulls and three hundred Arctic Terns (THK, Shearwaters were flying off Ocean Beach in SF on 8/3 (LL).

Off-course immature Magnificent Frigatebirds showed up at Ano Nuevo on 7/28 (MCa) and Mendocino on 7/29 (JCu), perhaps blown north by tropical storms further south.

Least Bitterns are secretive and not often seen near the coast at any time of the year and are virtually unknown in the area in the summer, making the sighting of one on 8/12 at SF Bay NWR all the more unusual (RJR). The hybrid Little Blue Heron/Snowy Egret at Charleston Slough was reported through 7/14 (mob). Two flocks of Cattle Egrets, a hundred each, were reported in Fresno County along with a White-faced Ibis on 7/13 (DES). A single Cattle Egret was in Fremont on 7/20 (SG). Two White-faced Ibis at the Mountainview salt ponds on 8/9 (LRF) were unexpectedly early.

The Harlequin Duck was still at Bolinas Lagoon thru 7/31 (mob). An eclipse-plumage male was reported



from Ano Nuevo on 7/15 (ISa). Princeton Harbor still had one Oldsquaw as of 8/25 (mob); up to two more individuals were at Limantour from 7/11 to 7/22 (MBu, DFW).

As mentioned, shorebirds proliferated:  
**Lesser Golden-Plover** first report 7/14

Up to nineteen individuals reported including up to seven at Abbott's Lagoon. Only two individuals, including one at SE Farallon, positively identified as *Domenica*.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** first report 7/10

As many as fifty individuals total including ten to twelve at Pescadero Marsh 7/26-28.

**Solitary Sandpiper**

2 Salinas Sewer Ponds	8/25-28	PLN, GFi
1 Abbott's Lagoon	8/25	MFe, DES
1 Moonglow Dairy	8/26	WL

**Wandering Tattler**

1 Emeryville Marina	8/5	KSw
1 Sunnyvale Sewer Ponds	8/5	PJM

**Dunlin**

3 Hayward Shoreline	8/28	LRF
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**Semipalmated Sandpiper** first report 7/26  
Fourteen individuals, including three adults

**Baird's Sandpiper** first report 7/14

Up to forty-five individuals total, including seven at Drake's Beach on 8/18. Six total at SE Farallon is about 1/3 normal count, perhaps due to very dry conditions.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** first report 8/4  
Nine individuals

**Stilt Sandpiper**

1 Moss Landing	7/28	RSTh, PJM
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**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

1 Bolinas Sewer Ponds	8/15-18	RS, SFB, MLR, BDP
2 SE Farallon	8/15,31	PRBO
1 Abbott's Lagoon	8/19	MiW
1 Moonglow Dairy	8/25-28	PLN, RJR, GFi
3 Hayward Shoreline	8/25-26	RJR, TiC

**Ruff**

1 Salinas Sewer Ponds	8/5	MFe
1 Ano Nuevo	8/27-29	GJS fide RSTh, RSTh

Black Terns breed in the interior and the Great Basin but are not usual near the coast so sightings in three places were welcome: Duxbury buoy, Bolinas, on 7/29 (KH, PP); Hayward Regional

Shoreline, 8/15-19 (RJR, KSw); and two at Salinas Sewer Ponds, 8/26-27 (MiF, GFi). A Thick-billed Murre, thought to be a different individual than last year's birds, was found close to shore in Monterey Bay on 8/26 (RJR, KGH, SFB, DRo fide SFB). Horned Puffins continued to be seen off Chimney Rock through 7/21 (mob). A Cassin's Auklet, somewhat out of its element, was discovered along the shore of Lake Merritt on 8/19 (RBu fide RNSC). A winter-plumaged Ancient Murrelet, present from 8/4-23, was only the 3rd summer record in 22 years for SE Farallon (PRBO).

Although it is not the purpose of this column to indulge in the competitive numbers game, it does seem noteworthy that a Nuttall's Woodpecker on 7/28 brought Keith Hansen and Peter Pyle's yard list in Bolinas to 229 species, possibly the highest in the US.

A Willow Flycatcher was spotted in Vallejo on 8/27 (MBG). Eastern Kingbirds were present at Mendoza Ranch on 7/13 (MPI); on Cloverdale Rd., San Mateo Co., on 7/25-26 (CKf, DLSu, RSTh, GFi); and on SE Farallon on 8/5 (PRBO).

Warbler sightings were slim: an adult male American Redstart at the Fish Docks 8/20-25 (RS, BDP); and a Northern Waterthrush and a Nashville Warbler as well as a Lark Bunting on SE Farallon on 8/31 (PRBO). A Clay-colored Sparrow on SE Farallon, 8/15-17, was an early arrival (PRBO).

**OBSERVERS**

Dick Ashford, Stephen F. Bailey, Rex Burris, Mark Butler, Michelle Casey, Josiah Clark, David Coe, Tim Crisler, Joan Curry, Arthur L. Edwards, Leora R. Feeney, Mike Feighner (MiF), Marc Fenner (MFe), George Finger, Steve Glover,

Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen (KH), Kevin G. Howell, George Hugenberg, Clay Kempf, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Leslie Lieurence, William Lofthouse, J. McKean, Peter J. Metropulos, Scott Morrical, many observers (mob), Paul L. Noble, D. Oglesby, George Page, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Magnus Persmark, Marjorie Plant, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO), Lina J. Prairie, Peter Pyle, David C. Rice, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Rotary National Science Center (RNSC), Ivan Samuels, Rusty Scalf, Donald E. Schmoldt, Kevin Sea, Tim Shellmerdine, Dan Singer (DSg), Chris Spooner, Rich Stallcup (RS), Robert M. Stewart (RMS), Gary Strachan, David L. Suddjian, Kirk Swenson, Ron S. Thorn, Adrian Wander, Michael Wihler, Dennis F. Wolff, David G. Yee.

—ANN DEWART

719 Beatie St., Oakland, CA 94606  
(415) 763-3010

## FOR OAKLAND RESIDENTS

While GGAS has not formally endorsed Measure K we would urge Oakland residents to take a friendly look at the Measure on the November ballot. There are provisions for expansion of parks and open space which will benefit wildlife. For those interested in more information and to make contributions, write: Citizens For The Oakland Parks Bond Measure K, P.O. Box 19015, Oakland, CA 94702.

## WETLANDS

Arthur Feinstein made a hurried trip to Olympia, Washington to appear at the hearing of the Domestic Policy Council considering Protection of

Wetlands. He reports more opponents than supporters of wetlands were there to speak; opponents tended to be farmers, ranchers and representatives of water districts. It was not encouraging to those who favor no net loss of wetlands as a policy. There seemed more support for "ranking" wetlands, and preserving some selectively. Ranking would only guarantee further losses.

Letters to the Council and to President Bush are very important right now. Ask the President to strengthen Executive Order 11990 with explicit "no net loss" language, and in particular, not to weaken it to "regional no net loss". Critical habitat for many species will be lost if there is lax language.

The Domestic Policy Council should be addressed:

Wetlands Coordination Team  
Room 5138 Main Interior Bldg.  
1849 C. St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240

## OUR RANCH!

Audubon Canyon Ranch has closed its gates again for the fall and winter seasons, awaiting the return of the nesting Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons in the spring. Meanwhile we would like to thank our chapter volunteer hosts for their time and energy on weekends in April and July greeting visitors and informing them about the Ranch. GGAS very much appreciates your investment of time and self at ACR and we would like to encourage even broader participation next year. Please call the GGAS office, 843-2222, to sign up for your turn.

## COMPARE THEM—WHICH “PROTECTION” ACT DO YOU WANT?

The Forest and Wildlife Protection  
and Bond Act of 1990

The Global Warming and  
Clearcutting Reduction,  
Wildlife Protection and  
Reforestation Act of 1990

### Ancient Forests

Provides \$710 million for acquisition of “Headwater Forests” the largest unprotected virgin redwood forest and other critical patches.

No money for acquisition.

### Clearcutting

Bans clearcutting of the ancient forests and mandates “selective” logging. Defined clearcutting as over 60% removal of over 2½ acres at a time.

Claims to ban but actually permits clearcutting of the ancient forests if replaced with 4" seedlings. Leaves large loopholes in clearcutting definition.

### Long-term Management

Requires Board of Forestry to enforce specified sustained yield standards.

Does not contain any provisions required sustained yield forestry.

### Wildlife

Requires all State approved Timber Harvest Plans to include any environmental protective measures recommended by the Dept. of Fish and Game.

Requires only a study of wildlife impacts. Sets no standards for wildlife protection. Re-enacts previously abused laws allowing lumber companies to “explain and justify” any violation of existing standards.

### Other

Protects streams. Stops timber industry domination of the Board of Forestry.

Allows timber companies to get one-time approval of massive logging plans (20,000 acres or more) denying future public input and maintaining current weak logging practice regulations.

### Supported by

Planning and Conservation League, Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club.

Timber Association of California, large timber companies.



## News from NAS

First came the summer of 1988: garbage on the beaches, holes in the ozone layer, drought in the Midwest. A nation awoke to the looming reality of environmental troubles.

In the dog days of 1989 we fared little better. Angry shrimpers refused to comply with the law, costing the lives of thousands of endangered sea turtles. The impacts of the country's worst oil spill, the Exxon Valdez, reverberated through the system.

This summer we are witnessing yet another full scale assault on the environment:

- Citing "national security", the oil industry and some congressmen renewed their call for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, while the year-long rash of oil spills continue to proliferate.
- Following the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as a threatened species, the administration worked feverishly to circumvent the Endangered Species Act and allow continued high rates of logging in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest.
- Developers continue to plow millions of dollars into lobbying for the disastrous Two Forks Dam on the Platte River, despite a nearly sure veto by the EPA.

However, the summer of 1990 will also be remembered for its victories—many of them engineered by chapters and Audubon activists:

- Scenic designation was declared for 76 miles of the beautiful Niobara River in northern Nebraska.

- Revisions to the Clean Air Act passed both houses of Congress that, over time, should stop acid rain.

- Oil spill liability legislation was signed requiring tankers to have double hulls and making oil spillers pay more of the true cost of spills.

- As of this writing, 123 representatives had signed on to Rep. Jim Jontz's landmark Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1990.

- Audubon chapters in Florida participated in unprecedented hands-on training workshops on wetland preservation, sponsored by National Audubon.

Many of the most critical battles ahead of us will be fought at the chapter level, and your letters, phone calls and appearances before public agencies will continue to make the difference on a whole host of local and national issues.

Now is our chance to help save the world. We can make a difference and we will.

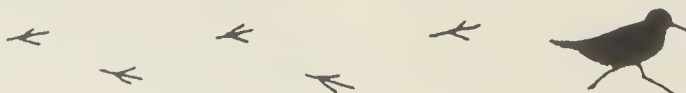
—PETER A. A. BERLE  
NAS President

## GGAS NEEDS YOU

As President Berle suggests, the chapter is the place to make your weight felt. Join the Conservation Committee, learn the issues and get the facts so that you can make your contribution count. Anyone can help and we were all inexperienced when we started. Come on in, the water's fine.

## BOARD ACTION

At its August meeting the GGAS board of directors voted to name our chapter's education fund The Paul F. Covell Memorial Education Fund. This was done with the consent of his family.





## BACK YARD BIRDER

Do you remember a specific moment, the first time you just HAD to know the name of that little brown bird? I recall a large flock of beautiful procelain-like birds alighting on my pyracantha berries. Once I zeroed in on them with my husband's crummy sports binoculars I just HAD to know what they were. I dug out a bird book inherited from my mother (who was more interested in wildflowers and Indian lore than birds) and I located the Cedar Waxwings on page 267. I was hooked for life, a strange kind of addiction.

Birdwatching was not the "in" thing to acquire as a hobby 25 plus years ago. Until well after WW II, birding was regarded as either a pursuit of the idle rich or the eccentric or, if you were a man, you must be effeminate because there wasn't enough physical contact for birding to be a sport. Well, I didn't care if my friends thought I was odd, I bought Peterson's guide, studied it and practiced identifying birds in my back yard. Front yard, too. Luckily there were plenty of different kinds, and later I learned from Barbara Bedayn's classes about migration. For awhile I had problems with immature birds. That passed and as I became familiar with the regulars I got into observing specific behavior. Today's serious birder could actually teach a thing or three to the ornithologists of 150 years ago—so *much* has been learned since then.

Many people passively enjoy watching birds but will never progress to real birdwatching. Those skills cannot be learned from a book or even taught. For one thing, you must have flexibility, an open mind to several possibilities. There are some who think every single Song Sparrow, e.g., must look just like the one in the field guide. Individual



birds vary, especially in widely separated ranges. In order to become a good birder you need, along with the interest, keen hearing and eyesight and an awareness of your surroundings. Remember when you thought a shrike and a Mockingbird looked alike? Now you know it's just a superficial likeness.

A serious birder should digest and memorize as many field guides and as much birding literature as possible. You can pick up many tips on identifying specific birds this way. It also helps to have birding friends with whom you can share and exchange information. Most importantly, spend every minute you can spare looking for and at birds, absorbing clues to help separate one bird from another. Eventually you will know when and how to look for birds. A mere glimpse of a pigeon flapping by is enough for you to rapidly and accurately identify...a Band-tailed Pigeon! Simply hearing a few scold notes and you've "got" a Bewick's Wren! This happens so gradually that one day you amaze even yourself.

The true test of birding skills is trying to identify a new bird by yourself in new territory. I'm hoping to pass that test soon when we visit East Africa once again. I can hardly wait to face the challenge of the many sun birds! Stay tuned till next month.

—MEG PAULETICH

## NATIONAL BIRDING HOT-LINE

From Joe Morlan comes word of the availability (to anyone with a modem and interest) on a local electronic bulletin board of Rare Bird Alert scripts from all over. The generosity of an Arizona birder makes this possible. The information is from the Twilight Zone Bulletin Board and can be accessed at (415) 352-0433.

## SCOPE AND BINOC SHOW

For the second time the SFBBO and the GGRO are giving us an opportunity to see, handle and purchase the latest in spotting scopes and binoculars from top manufacturers. It happens Sunday, Oct. 14th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Building F (the Firehouse), Fort Mason, San Francisco. Admission is \$3. Lectures on bird identification (Gulls at 11, Shorebirds at 1, Hawks at 3) and on use and selection of optics (at 12 and 2) and demonstrations on care of optics are offered. The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory are to be congratulated for having initiated this useful annual event. For more details call 946-6548 or 331-0730.

## CONTRA COSTA RESIDENTS

The Lindsay Museum, Save the San Francisco Bay, and Congressman George Miller are organizing a county-wide opportunity to involve the public in significant legislation coalescing at the State and Federal level important to the San Francisco Bay—Delta Estuary.

Participate in a wide-open discussion to inspire citizens to get involved in protection and restoration of the estuary, on Tuesday Oct. 23 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

A special screening of "Secrets of the Bay" will precede the discussion. Seating is limited. Please pre-register at the Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (935-1983). Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

## DREDGING: POLLUTION OR SOLUTION?

That will be the subject of a program that the San Francisco Estuary Project is sponsoring at the Bay Model in Sausalito on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speakers from the Army Corps of Engineers, dredging industry, ports, marinas, regulatory agencies, boating interests and fishery groups will present the positive and negative sides of dredging activities. A discussion will be held on creative uses of dredged materials, in particular the Levee Restoration Demonstration Project on the M&T Ranch on Staten Island in the Delta. There will be a tour of the Bay Model and a demonstration of its application for dredging purposes. Registration is \$5. Call 653-5723 (Jean Patton) for information.

## SPECIAL DAY

The second annual *Save The Rain Forests Day* will take place Sunday, Oct. 21 at Pier II, Fort Mason from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Celebrating the world's rain forests, the event includes information exhibits, films, speakers and special events for children. Entertainment will include samba dancers and drummers, as well as comedy and other music offerings. Food indigenous to the rain forests will also be featured.

Of course the purpose is to raise awareness of the devastation caused by deforestation, introduce consumers to products that can make the rain forests

economically productive and thus prevent their further destruction and to supply practical, environmentally sound solutions to our everyday problems. The event is sponsored by *Business for Environmental Action* (BEA), a non-profit organization that provides a bridge between businesses and environmental groups to develop workable solutions to environmental problems. Call 346-0154 or 771-4662 for more information.

## THE AUDUBON ARK

Auduboners have been active in the century's most critical environmental battles, from achieving a ban on DDT due to its effect on wildlife to today's struggles to save the last ancient forests. And they include unforgettable personalities such as Roger Tory Peterson, Oscar Arias, and others. From a small group of concerned citizens protecting wading birds to one of the world's largest and most influential environmental organizations, in a little more than one hundred years, National Audubon Society has come a long way.

Audubon's story has now been published and is available in bookstores. Longtime Audubon magazine field editor Frank Graham, Jr. has written a 352-page book entitled *The Audubon Ark: A History of the National Audubon Society*, published by Alfred A. Knopf. Royalties will benefit NAS programs.

## BOOKSIGNING

At the California Academy of Science, and jointly sponsored by the Academy and PRBO, on Thursday, Oct. 4 there will be a reception (at 6 p.m.) and a lecture (at 7:30) for Dr. David Ainsley's *Seabirds of the Farallon Islands: Ecology and*

*Dynamics of an Upwelling-system Community*. Ian Tait, wildlife photographer, will be showing slides of the Farallon Islands' mammals and birds. Call 868-1221 for information.

## LETTER

Half an hour or forty five minutes before the Oct. 17 quake, I left my office near Solano and Curtis in Albany. I noticed our local flock of pigeons flying in large circles high in the sky above their favorite roost. Pigeons commonly circle, but this was unusual enough for me to notice immediately. The flock was very orderly, almost regimented, and the manner in which it circled, without evidencing any indication of being about to roost or fly in a particular direction, was positively eerie. The behavior continued for at least ten minutes. Succeeding events thrust this occurrence from my mind for several days. I have read...pigeons may navigate by sensing the earth's magnetic field. Perhaps earthquakes induce changes that disorient pigeons. Perhaps not. Anyway, whatever they were doing was pretty weird.

—SUZANNE P. JOHNSON  
Oakland

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Joining the Audubon Activist Network has never been easier—or more urgent. By signing the Activist Pledge—a commitment to write two letters and make two phone calls during the year for Audubon issues—you can be part of the growing corps of Audubon activists who want to make their voices heard. By making the Pledge, you will receive the newly designed and monthly *Audubon Activist*, as well as *Action Alert* bulletins on key votes in Congress. Simply send a post card to



*Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022. Write the Pledge: "I agree to write at least two letters and make two phone calls for Audubon each year." Give your name, address and Audubon Chapter.

## CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSAL

There are many reasons for a quick response to the call for support issued by the Friends of Elk River. The U.S. Forest Service plan calls for clear cutting most of the Elk River old growth forest in the next ten or so years. Letters should go on to our two U.S. Senators and to your Member in Congress and to

Ronald J. McCormick  
Forest Supervisor  
Siskiyou National Forest  
P.O. Box 440  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Ask that the Forest Service defer clearcut timber sales now planned for the Elk River Watershed. Request that the Elk River Salmon Conservation Area be established. Say that the area of the watershed is biologically and geologically unique and needs careful management. Mention the importance of the salmon to commercial and sport fishing.

This area has 150 inches of annual rainfall and hurricane force winds that make the Elk extremely prone to erosion, slides and blow-down. It contains the western-most stand of old growth Port-Orford cedar in the United States and is one of the few remaining low-level Ancient Forests. It is a corridor between the Pacific and the Rogue River and important to wildlife. The annual average value of catch of Elk River Chinook to commercial fishermen is an estimated \$1.5 million.

The plan for a conservation area bans timber exports and requires that all timber harvested be manufactured into final products by local independent business. This will provide local economic stability. More jobs have been lost to automation and whole log exporting, than to conservation forestry methods.

The plan also calls for roadless back-country recreation areas to protect old growth ecosystems and prevent erosion. It provides for selective cutting of geologically stable areas and a 300-year logging rotation to insure a sustained harvest of old growth forever, and a clean river.

Unless challenged most Elk River old  
*(continued on next page)*



The ELK RIVER SALMON CONSERVATION AREA, all within the boundaries of Siskiyou National Forest in southwest Oregon, is a National Treasure which belongs to each and every American citizen.

growth over hundreds of acres of watershed will be clearcut each year until it is liquidated. Roads will be built in geologically unstable areas. Damage to chinook and steelhead spawning tributaries which are damaged by clear-cutting and road-building will be "mitigated" (repair efforts will be attempted if funding is available).

## OREGON LAWMAKERS WOULD LEVEL LAST ANCIENT FORESTS

In the waning days of the 101st Congress, Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) and a fellow Oregonian Rep. Les AuCoin (D-Ore.) introduced a pair of "nightmare bills" that would all but guarantee the wholesale destruction of the nation's last remaining ancient forests.

The legislation, HR 5094 in the House of Representatives and S 2762 in the Senate, requires continued commodity production—logging, mining, grazing—in the national forests at current levels, regardless of the environmental consequences. Specifically it would:

- limit the Secretary of Agriculture's power to lower logging quotas by more than one percent;
- require the Secretary to consider opening previously protected lands;
- insulate logging plans from court-ordered injunctions;
- limit judicial review of potentially illegal timber sales; and
- require the Secretary to sell **the maximum amount of timber allowed** in each forest plan.

You can help stop this legislation by writing your representative and senators today. Urge them to vigorously oppose HR 5094 and S 2762. These bills

threaten the future of every national forest in this country. Also ask your representative to co-sponsor HR 4492, the Ancient Forest Protection Act, supported by Audubon and other members of the environmental community, if he has not yet done so; and ask your senators to introduce a similar bill.

The environmentalist's position on the employment impact of conservation forestry practices is that financial aid should be provided to timber-dependent communities who diversify their economies, through such mechanisms as are already included in the Farm Bill of 1990. We support this and other economic aid legislation. The timber industry is going through an inevitable transition; environmentalists believe the best solution for the nation is to assist this transition, help timber communities diversify—and still provide for the protection of ancient forests for future generations.

State of Oregon economists estimate that if all significant stands of ancient forest in that state were given protection, about 5,000 timber industry jobs would be affected, over a period of time. Ninety-four percent of all employment in Oregon is not timber related. Each year Oregon's growing economy adds 39,000 new non-timber jobs to its employment base. If ancient forests are not protected, timber jobs would decline anyway as the industry continues to automate. From 1979–86 11,000 jobs in timber were lost to automation and log export, not loss of timber supply. In those years the industry actually increased timber production!

For more information write Brock Evans, NAS Ancient Forest Campaign, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003.



## BIRD SEED SALE

Even if you forgot to send in an order, there will be seed in the smaller size bags available Saturday, Oct. 6 (Berkeley only). Remember that we have moved to 2530 San Pablo Ave. You'll find our new office a big improvement. Park on San Pablo or in the lot north of our building. If you'd like to help with the sale, either in Berkeley or San Francisco, please call Barbara at 843-2222.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

### HERONRY REPORT

Though we usually give a heronry report each October, the egrets are still in the colony as this column goes to press. This year's late season may be due to the drought, or perhaps less likely to the Golden Eagle which adopted the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve as his own during the early season. The last egrets are expected to leave the Ranch during the first week or two of September. You should be able to read all about the season here next month.

### FALL SEMINARS

Saturday, October 13, will feature *NATIVE AMERICAN LIFESTYLES* at the Bouverie Preserve (\$20). Explore the Bouverie Preserve with Foley Benson and John Petersen as they interpret the role of Native Americans in the Sonoma environment.

A couple of weeks later, October 27 and 28, our annual celebration of Halloween will take place at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. John Kipping and Ray Peterson will present the most mysterious of our programs. *BATS, TOADS & AUTUMN TRICKS* is sure to give you a new perspective on life at the lagoon. (\$75/family of 4).

## AUDUBON IN THE AMERICAS

### International Audubon Ecology Workshops

This year, Audubon offers a great opportunity to learn about environmental issues affecting the whole Western Hemisphere, while enjoying an exciting outdoor adventure. Audubon experts in each workshop will present an overview of tropical ecosystems as well as in-depth information on the conservation challenges facing these lands -- and some of the solutions already being enacted.

#### International Workshop in Central America **Costa Rica**

January 19-29, 1991 \$1,895

#### International Workshop in South America **Venezuela**

March 31-April 9, 1991 \$1,895

#### International Workshop in the Caribbean **Trinidad**

June 27-July 8, 1991 \$1,695

All workshops include round trip airfare from Miami

Write or call for a free color brochure:

International Audubon Ecology Workshops  
613-D Riversville Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831  
(203) 869-2017



**FREE LUNCH!!**

Just give us a little help at the Ranch and we'll give you a **FREE LUNCH!!** If it rains you might even be lucky enough to dig in the mud. Let Edris know right now that you want to help at the Ranch on Saturday, November 10, otherwise there will be no **FREE LUNCH!!**

The very next day, Sunday, November 11, Ray Peterson will be your instructor as you learn about one of coastal California's most fascinating migrants, **MONARCHS**.

For those of us who spend the fall weekends at the coast looking for migrating hawks, shorebirds, and warblers, this may come as a surprise; **MONARCHS** aren't birds! You'll have to join Ray to find out just what they are. (\$20)

To reserve your place at our Bolinas Lagoon Preserve seminars please call (415) 868-9244, or for Bouverie Audubon Preserve seminars call (707) 938-4554.

**BOUVERIE AUDUBON PRESERVE GUIDED NATURE WALKS**

Our very special way of introducing our friends to the Bouverie Audubon Preserve is through nature walks led by BAP Docents. October 20 and November 17, both Saturdays are your next opportunities to visit the preserve. These free walks last from 9:30 to 1:30. Reservations are required and must be made by the Wednesday preceding the trip. (707) 938-4554.

—DAN MURPHY

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For Conservation  
and Education

**In Memory of**

Paul F. Covell  
Alan Lyford  
Brent Mydland of  
*The Grateful Dead*

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152

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288  
Update: 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings, second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,  
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.